

MEMBERS, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL
Mr. Steven R. Moore, District I Mr. Kenneth E. Johns, Jr., District II
Rev. William "Bill" Rinehart, District III Mr. Marion E. Lyles, District IV
Mr. H. Frank Ables, Jr., District V

MINUTES, OCONEE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

The Oconee County Council met Tuesday, May 18, 2004 at 3:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Council Members except Mr. Rinehart present. Mr. Norton, County Attorney was also present.

Press:

Members of the press notified (via mail): Keowee Courier, Westminster News, Daily Journal, Anderson Independent, WGOG Radio, WYFF TV & WLOS TV.

Members of the press present: Ray Chandler – Daily Journal & Dick Mangrum – WGOG Radio.

Other Organizations Notified:

Also notified were the Oconee County Tax Payers Association and the Oconee County Democratic Party.

Call to Order:

Chairman Ables called the meeting to order.

Invocation:

Mr. Johns the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. Norton led the pledge of allegiance to the US Flag.

Minutes:

By consensus, Council adopted the minutes of the regular meeting held May 4, 2004.

Rock Quarry:

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 4 – 0 that the attached transfer in the amount of \$35,000 for blasting at the Rock Quarry be adopted.

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Communications (Contingency):

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 4 – 0 that \$2,700 be taken from contingency and placed in the overtime line item for Communications. (See attachment)

Seneca Rescue Squad (Contingency):

Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 4 – 0 that \$420 be taken from contingency for three loads of crusher run gravel for the parking lot of Seneca Rescue Squad. (See attachment)

Law Enforcement Center (Contingency):

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 4 – 0 that \$9,800 be taken from contingency and placed in the LEC medical line item to cover expenses for the remainder of this fiscal year. (See attachment)

Library:

Mrs. Martha Baily, Library Director & Mr. Paul Johanson, Library Board Chair addressed Council recommending that County owned property south of Memorial Drive and west of Hospital Drive be used to construct a new Seneca Library on. However, Council Members informed them this property is restricted to medical use only as per the deed. Also, Council Members stated it is their understanding the City of Seneca wants the Library in the downtown area.

Probate Judge Office:

Mr. Johns made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, approved 4 – 0 that the concept of the Probate Judge Office as presented by Mr. Lake Julian, Construction Projects Manager be adopted.

Courthouse:

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 4 – 0 that \$3,000 be taken from miscellaneous capital improvements for the removal of the islands in front of the courthouse and at the entry of Short Street and the paving of a fire lane in front of the courthouse. (See attached drawings)

Referendum Committee:

Council discussed appointing a committee to inform the public of the pro's and con's regarding the upcoming water and sewer referendum.

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Delinquent Tax:

Mrs. Lombard, Finance Director, informed Council that the Delinquent Tax Office has collected in excess of \$1,000,000 since January 2004.

Ordinance 2004-14:

Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, approved 4 – 0 that Ordinance 2004-14, "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 99-14, OCONEE COUNTY PERFORMANCE STANDARDS ORDINANCE" be adopted on first reading in title only.

Ordinance 2004-15:

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 4 – 0 that Ordinance 2004-15, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 97-14, OCONEE COUNTY POLICIES & PROCEDURES MANUAL, SPECIFICALLY SECTIONS 3-1, 3-4 & 3-5" be adopted on first reading in title only

Ordinance 2004-12:

Ordinance 2004-12, "THE 2004-05 OCONEE COUNTY BUDGET ORDINANCE" was not ready for adoption on second reading as we are awaiting the adoption of the School District budget.

Ordinance 2004-13:

Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ables, approved 4 – 0 that Ordinance 2004-13, "AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE THE OCONEE COUNTY FINANCE DIRECTOR, THE DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR & STAFF CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS" be adopted on second reading.

Courthouse:

Mr. Johns made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 4 – 0 that Heery perform conceptual design sketches for the needed remedial work for the courtrooms at a cost of \$33,762 which will reimbursed back to the County. (See attached)

Habitat for Humanity:

Mr. Lyles made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johns, approved 4 – 0 that a request of Habitat for Humanity to dispose of brush, tree limbs, etc. at the landfill at no cost be tabled until after adoption of the 2004-05 financial plan.

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Oak Grove 4-H:

Mr. Ables made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 4 – 0 that five loads of gravel dust be donated to the Oak Grove 4-H Club.

Personnel & Intergovernmental Meeting:

The Personnel & Intergovernmental Committee scheduled a meeting Tuesday, June 1, 2004 at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers.

Budget & Finance Recommendation:

Upon recommendation of the Budget & Finance Committee, Council voted unanimously to implement a hiring freeze and a freeze on any promotions that will incur costs until further notice from Council.

Public Comment Session:

Mr. Larry Linson addressed Council regarding their holding the line on spending and the financing of the I-85 water/sewer project.

Mr. B. J. Littleton addressed Council regarding the plat form ladder truck and the courthouse, Poor Farm Lake and fire calls.

Executive Session:

Mr. Johns made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lyles, approved 4 – 0 that Council go into executive session to discuss a contractual matter.

Open Session:

There was no action when open session resumed.

Adjourn:

Adjourn 4:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted:

Opal O. Green, Clerk to Council